

PTO Council Meeting  
November 9, 2023  
Noon - Admin Building

*In Attendance:* Jessica Graetz, Jenny Abeles, Tanya Hayden, Meredith Reese, Jason Bockman, Allyson Lavender, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Madeline Akins, Cara Downs, Ashley Slater, John Brazeal, Luke Hetttert, Deanna Palagallo, Suzy Oge, LTahnee Whitlock, Stacy Siwak, Laura Seelbach, Laura Pierson

Introductions and Brief School Recaps - Jenny Abeles, PTO Council Co-President

1. Suzy Oge - CHS
  - a. Moved meetings to lunchtime from evening. Also offer Zoom. Successful
  - b. Last meeting included the coordinator for the Wellness Center
2. Jason Bockman - Glenridge
  - a. We've been having great attendance. Biggest Strawberry Festival ever.
  - b. Switched to Cheddar Up - helps to collect
3. Deanna Palagallo - Family Center
  - a. Give Back Night at Dewey's wasn't very successful.
  - b. Book Fair next week at Betty's Books.
  - c. Shopping Event in December - Sweet Boutique
  - d. Vehicle Fair last Saturday - dedicated a bench to Debbie Reilly
4. Ashley Slater, Tahnee Whitlock, and Madeline Akins - Meramec
  - a. Goals around Fundraising and got to \$20,000 quickly
  - b. Build community and didn't have to raise money at those events.
  - c. Movie Night, Back to School Coffee - very well attended
5. Allyson Lavender - Captain
  - a. Had a new event in September - CITY game - sold tickets and kept \$5 for every ticket. CITY reached out to them.
  - b. International Night was very successful. Happy about high attendance.
  - c. Bingo Night - Family Friendly - very successful
6. Betsy Meyland-Smith and Cara Downs - Wydown
  - a. Great Spirit Wear sales have helped to meet budget.
  - b. November 1st deadline for Funds for Excellence.
  - c. Gab and Grub - serve a snack and have a fun activity - to facilitate a sense of community for the students.
7. Discussion re: School colors - should everyone have blue and orange?
  - a. There are two schools of thought

- b. There was a consultant several years ago who recommended individuality for schools and their colors.
- c. Some high school students don't like having the younger kids wear blue and orange.
- d. We're lucky to be a small community, and should we be teaching all our kids that we're community.

#### Board of Education Update - Stacy Siwak BOE Member

- 1. Updates from strategic plan - Diversity Equity and Inclusion
  - a. New teachers are doing a series of professional development around DEI
  - b. Tenured teachers make choices around the Prof. Dev they want to attend
  - c. Educ Climb - all students have a record that follows them - academic info as well as social emotional to help teachers understand the whole child.
- 2. Updates from SSD -
  - a. Formalized partnership
  - b. Added baseline data to track progress
- 3. Wellness Center
  - a. Approved bid to build out space
  - b. SW hired to run program and has already started seeing kids
  - c. Student consultants to help director make decisions about the program
- 4. School Board Members from STL County and surrounding counties - come together in monthly Zoom calls to learn and discuss legislative information in MO.
- 5. School Board Election in April
  - a. Jenny and Jessica will get a list of PTO dates to Stacy.

#### Contracts - John Brazeal - CFO

- 1. School districts and PTOs are separate entities. District appreciates
- 2. Various contracts and vendors are hired by district, with policies and procedures to follow.
- 3. PTOs are free to engage contracts and vendors of their choosing.
- 4. Sometimes the district makes purchases on PTOs behalf and sends them invoices. This can be helpful to the PTOs not to have to file taxes on purchases.
- 5. Request was made for more communication between the district and the PTOs regarding contracts.

#### New Business - Jessica Graetz and Jenny Abeles, PTO Council Co-Presidents

- 1. Can yearbook and school supplies be centralized? Each school should figure out how they handle yearbooks and school supplies, and report back to PTO Council.
- 2. Dr. Weins asked for SSD presentation regarding inclusion for events - 20 minutes - the question was asked whether we should have her come here, or each individual school PTOs. PTO Presidents decided they would rather have Dr. Weins come to their meetings.
- 3. Raised \$4500 for Food and Essentials Drive, in addition to the supplies collected.

- a. PTO Council has been spearheading the efforts, but would like to stop being in charge of this program.
- b. PTOs will now be in charge of their own Food and Essentials Drives - PTOs working with building counselors.

Treasurer's Report - Tanya Hayden - PTO Council Treasurer  
Already discussed!

Adjourn